Chamber Singers

Dr. Garry Froese, conductor
Thomas Nicholson, accompanist

With Members of the Lafayette String Quartet:

Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, violin
Sharon Stanis, violin
Pamela Highbaugh Aloni, cello

and guest violist, Yariv Aloni

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 • 8:00 p.m.
St. Aidan’s United Church
3703 St. Aidan’s
Adults $15 / Students & Seniors $10
Ritchot Mass

1. Kyrie
2. Gloria
3. Sanctus
4. Agnus Dei

Glenn Buhr

Five Hebrew Love Songs

1. Temuna
2. Kala Kalla
3. Larov
4. Eyze Sheleg
   Margaret Lingas, soprano soloist
   Sam Simons, narrator
5. Raku

Eric Whitacre

In Sideribus Domi: At Home In The Stars

I. Prelude – The Science of Man
II. The Art of the Divine
III. Discovery
IV. Creativity
V. Sanctus/Reprise

Adam Jasieniuk, soprano saxophone
Paul Joo, cello
Tamara Nemeth, DJ Lochead & Simon Dawkins, percussion
Brendan McGuigan, bass

Hymne au soleil

Shelley Shen, mezzo-soprano
Thomas Nicholson, piano

Lili Boulanger
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Ritchot Mass by Glenn Buhr

Glenn Buhr, born and raised in the same prairie province of Manitoba as the conductor of the Chamber Singers, earned his B. Mus. at the University of Manitoba, later completing a graduate degree at the University of British Columbia while studying composition with Stephen Chatman and William Benjamin. Among other honours and commissions awarded to this composer, “…Buhr’s DMA thesis from the University of Michigan, the symphonic poem Beren and Lúthien (based on the mythic tale by Tolkien), was premiered by the Toronto Symphony under Andrew Davis 11 Sep 1985…” according to the Canadian Encyclopedia.

An excerpt from Buhr’s own introduction to the Ritchot Mass, gives the listener an important contextual setting for the writing of this composition:

“The first music that I composed while living as a refugee during the 1997 [Red River Valley] flood was the Kyrie of this mass. Nursing the grief of losing our home to the flood, I could not help being moved by the opening words of the mass: Lord, have mercy upon us...I felt that this was a universal prayer for every human being who has ever experienced the suffering of loss. The work is dedicated to those who lost their homes to this disaster and it is named after my community, the rural Municipality of Ritchot, an area that was brutally devastated by the flood.”

Five Hebrew Love Songs by Eric Whitacre

In the spring of 1996, my great friend and brilliant violinist Friedemann Eichhorn invited me and my girlfriend-at-the-time Hila Plitmann (a soprano) to give a concert with him in his home city of Speyer, Germany. We had all met that year as students at the Juilliard School, and were inseparable.

Because we were appearing as a band of traveling musicians, ‘Friedy’ asked me to write a set of troubadour songs for piano, violin and soprano. I asked Hila (who was born and raised in Jerusalem) to write me a few ‘postcards’ in her native tongue, and a few days later she presented me with these exquisite and delicate Hebrew poems. I set them while we vacationed in a small skiing village in the Swiss Alps, and we performed them for the first time a week later in Speyer.”
These songs are profoundly personal for me, born entirely out of my new love for this soprano, poet, and now my beautiful wife, Hila Plitmann.

Notes by Erik Whitacre

**Temuna (A Picture)**
A picture is engraved in my heart;
Moving between light and darkness:
A sort of silence envelopes your body,
And your hair falls upon your face just so.

**Kala Kalla (Light Bride)**
Light bride
She is all mine,
And lightly
She will kiss me!

**Larov (Mostly)**
“Mostly,” said the roof to the sky,
“the distance between you and I is endlessness;
But a while ago two came up here,
And only one centimeter was left between us.”

**Eyze Shelleg! (What Snow!)**
What snow!
Like little dreams
Falling from the sky.

**Rakut (Tenderness)**
He was full of tenderness;
She was very hard.
And as much as she tried to stay thus,
Simply, and with no good reason,
He took her into himself,
And set her down
In the softest, softest place.

Poetry by Hila Plitmann
In Sideribus Domi by Paul Halley

Paul Halley, a four-time Grammy winning composer, has some interesting serendipitous connections to the Victoria community—he served as assistant at Christ Church Cathedral for a time, while residing at the home of the parents of University of Victoria professors Christopher and Benjamin Butterfield. He and his wife at the time celebrated their wedding reception in the Butterfield’s garden during his tenure in Victoria.

Halley was chosen as the composer for this commission to celebrate the building of the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences from among 35 composers having vied for the honour. The Clay Center, located in Charleston, West Virginia, combines performing arts and visual centres, as well as visual arts galleries and a museum dedicated to the sciences. The Clay Center includes the Avampato Discovery Museum, which houses interactive science exhibits on two floors, while the ElectricSky Theater presents planetarium shows on a giant domed screen. The black-box Walker Theater is a facility supporting dramatic presentations, while the Maier Foundation Performance Hall, an 1883-seat concert theatre, is home of the West Virginia Symphony.

The 30-minute composition makes use of poetry/lyrics by poet David Densmore, a friend of the composer, poetry of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and poet Anne Lynch. Additional lyrics are by contemporary astronomer, Michael Rowan-Robinson’s from his “Our Universe: An Armchair Guide,” as well as the ancient text of the “Sanctus.”

In addition to bringing the arts and the sciences together, an element of world music is included in the central movement of the five-movement suite, which is set to music written in the style of a traditional Brazilian dance form.

Notes by Dr. Garry Froese
UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, March 27, 12:30 p.m. (Admission by donation)
FRIDAYMUSIC
Featuring School of Music percussion students.
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Saturday, March 28, 8:00 p.m. ($15 & $10)
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA CHORUS & ORCHESTRA
Dear Strangers
Ajtony Csaba, Conductor
Adam Con, Chorus Director
George Gershwin – An American in Paris
Joseph Haydn – Mass in D Major Hob. II:11 (Nelson Mass)
University Centre Farquhar Auditorium

Sunday, March 29, 2:30 p.m. ($15 & $10)
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA PHILOMELA WOMEN’S CHOIR
To Sing in the Spring!
Susan Young, Director
Singing songs of Spring and the Easter season.
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Sunday, March 29, 8:00 p.m. (Admission by donation)
VOCAL JAZZ SPRING SHOWCASE
Blossoms and Bop
Wendell Clanton, Director
A concert of non-stop show-stoppers that just won’t quit.
Phillip T. Young Recital Hall

Tuesday, March 31, 8:00 p.m. (Admission by donation)
STRING CHAMBER CONCERT
Students from the studios of the Lafayette String Quartet.
Lutheran Church of the Cross (3787 Cedar Hill Road)

Tickets available at the UVic Ticket Centre (250-721-8480),
online (www.tickets.uvic.ca) and at the door.

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